

Committee on Employment of People Who Are Disabled and inducted into the National Hall of Fame for Persons with Disabilities, 1988. He has served on many national committees and boards whose emphasis is directed towards rehabilitation services. He and his wife, the former Michelle Craig, an instructor at the Helen Keller National Center and also deaf-blind, have appeared on nationally broadcast television and radio programs.

Dr. Smithdas has lectured widely and fascinated countless audiences with the recounting of his own adjustment to deaf-blindness while working to improve opportunities for others to lead full and productive lives. On behalf of all New Yorkers, I feel privileged to have the opportunity to commend the outstanding achievements of Dr. Smithdas.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a treaty which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED ON JANUARY 23, 1995, WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN TERRORISTS WHO THREATEN TO DISRUPT THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS—PM 3

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the emergency declared with respect to foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process is to continue in effect beyond January 23, 2009.

The crisis with respect to the grave acts of violence committed by foreign

terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process that led to the declaration of a national emergency on January 23, 1995, as expanded on August 20, 1998, has not been resolved. Terrorist groups continue to engage in activities that have the purpose or effect of threatening the Middle East peace process and that are hostile to United States interests in the region. Such actions constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to foreign terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process and to maintain in force the economic sanctions against them to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 15, 2009.

2009 NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY—PM 4

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

To The Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit the 2009 National Drug Control Strategy, consistent with the provisions of section 201 of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 2006.

My Administration released its first National Drug Control Strategy in 2002 with the commitment to turn the tide against a problem that truly threatens everything that is good about our country. As we prepare to pass this noble charge to a new team of leaders, we can look back with satisfaction on what we have achieved together as a Nation. From community coalitions to our international partnerships, we pursued a balanced strategy that emphasized stopping initiation, reducing drug abuse and addiction, and disrupting drug markets.

The results of our efforts are clear. Together we have helped reduce teenage drug use by 25 percent since 2001. This means 900,000 fewer American teens are using drugs. The Access to Recovery program alone has extended treatment services to more than 260,000 Americans. Through law enforcement cooperation and international partnerships, the United States has caused serious disruptions in the availability of drugs such as cocaine and methamphetamine, reducing the threat such drugs pose to the American people, while also denying profits to drug traffickers and terrorists.

Our work is by no means complete—we must build on these efforts both to further reduce drug use and to rise to new challenges. I thank the Congress

for its support and ask that it continue to support this critical endeavor.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 15, 2009.

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY RELATING TO CUBA AND OF THE EMERGENCY AUTHORITY RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF THE ANCHORAGE AND MOVEMENT OF VESSELS—PM 5

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the national emergency declared with respect to the Government of Cuba's destruction of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba on February 24, 1996, as amended and expanded on February 26, 2004, is to continue in effect beyond March 1, 2009.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 15, 2009.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION ON MUTUAL FISHERIES RELATIONS—PM 6

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.), I transmit herewith an Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation Extending the Agreement Between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Russian Federation on Mutual Fisheries Relations of May 31, 1988, with annex, as extended (the "Mutual Fisheries Agreement"). The present Agreement, which was effected by an exchange of notes in Moscow on March 28, 2008, and September 19, 2008, extends the Mutual Fisheries Agreement until December 31, 2013.

In light of the importance of our fisheries relationship with the Russian Federation, I urge that the Congress give favorable consideration to this Agreement at an early date.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 15, 2009.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mr. DEMINT):

S. 251. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to permit targeted interference with mobile radio services within prison facilities; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 252. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance the capacity of the Department of Veterans Affairs to recruit and retain nurses and other critical health-care professionals, to improve the provision of health care veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, and Mr. CORKER):

S. 253. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the application of the homebuyer credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself, Ms. SNOWE, and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. 254. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of home infusion therapy under the Medicare Program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 255. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to empower the States to set the maximum annual percentage rates applicable to consumer credit transactions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. KYL, Mr. REID, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BAYH, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 256. A bill to enhance the ability to combat methamphetamine; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 257. A bill to amend title 11, United States Code, to disallow certain claims resulting from high cost credit debts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. BAYH):

S. 258. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide enhanced penalties for marketing controlled substances to minors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. CASEY, Mr. INOUE, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. AKAKA, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. MCCASKILL, and Mr. TESTER):

S. 259. A bill to establish a grant program to provide vision care to children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KOHL, Ms. STABENOW, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 260. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the taxation of income of controlled foreign corporations attributable to imported property; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. ENSIGN, and Mr. MARTINEZ):

S. 261. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore the deduction for the travel expenses of a taxpayer's spouse who accompanies the taxpayer on business travel; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY:

S. 262. A bill to improve and enhance the operations of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, to improve mobilization and demobilization processes for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 263. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the enforcement of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. STABENOW:

S. 264. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to encourage the use of certified health information technology by providers in the Medicaid program and the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself and Mr. CORKER):

S. 265. A bill to prohibit the awarding of a contract or grant in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold unless the prospective contractor or grantee certifies in writing to the agency awarding the contract or grant that the contractor or grantee has no seriously delinquent tax debts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KOHL, Mr. KERRY, Mr. JOHNSON, and Mrs. BOXER):

S. 266. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce the coverage gap in prescription drug coverage under part D of such title based on savings to the Medicare program resulting from the negotiation of prescription drug prices; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 267. A bill to provide funding for summer and year-round youth jobs and training programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 268. A bill to provide funding for a Green Job Corps program, YouthBuild Build Green Grants, and Green-Collar Youth Opportunity Grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. BROWN, and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 269. A bill to provide funding for unemployment and training activities for dislocated workers and adults, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. NELSON of Nebraska):

S. 270. A bill to provide for programs that reduce the need for abortion, help women

bear healthy children, and support new parents; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mr. HATCH, Mr. KERRY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. NELSON of Florida):

S. 271. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives to accelerate the production and adoption of plug-in electric vehicles and related component parts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HARKIN:

S. 272. A bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to ensure that all agreements, contracts, and transactions with respect to commodities are carried out on a regulated exchange, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. REID (for Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. VOINOVICH)):

S. 273. A bill to require the designation of the federally occupied building located at McKinley Avenue and Third Street, S.W., Canton, Ohio, as the "Ralph Regula Federal Office Building and Courthouse"; considered and passed.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. Res. 14. A resolution to provide funding for Senate staff transitions; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 84

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) were added as cosponsors of S. 84, a bill to close the loophole that allowed the 9/11 hijackers to obtain credit cards from United States banks that financed their terrorist activities, to ensure that illegal immigrants cannot obtain credit cards to evade United States immigration laws, and for other purposes.

S. 85

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 85, a bill to amend title X of the Public Health Service Act to prohibit family planning grants from being awarded to any entity that performs abortions.

S. 95

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) were added as cosponsors of S. 95, a bill to prohibit appropriated funds from being used in contravention of section 642(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996.

S. 96

At the request of Mr. VITTER, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 96, a bill to prohibit certain abortion-related discrimination in governmental activities.